

A full moon is visible in the background, and a bright star is in the upper right. The scene is set in a desert with rolling dunes.

*Wise Men,  
Still Seek  
Him*

**Following the Way to Jesus  
(Matthew 2:1-12)**

# Auld Lange Syne

- “Auld lang syne” is the title and key phrase of a 1788 Scottish poem by Robert Burns, typically sung on New Year’s Eve around the world. The phrase “auld lang syne,” which literally translates to “old long since,” basically means “days gone by” in the Scots language. Or, as *Merriam-Webster* explains, the “auld lang syne” meaning is “the good old times.”
- **First verse:**  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
and never brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
and auld lang syne?

# Auld Lange Syne

- As Scots immigrated around the world, they took the song with them. Eventually, North American English speakers translated Burns's dialect into the common lyrics we know today, made famous in part by Guy Lombardo and his band, the Royal Canadians. The group performed the song on New Year's Eve from 1929 until about 1977. It's this version that plays every year after the ball drops in Times Square.
- The tune has a bittersweet, even melancholic feel to it, of there always being something missing, even in the best of times.
- There is always an ache for something unnamed but not unfelt. An ache because a hole remains in one's soul.

# Matthew 2:1-2

## Seeking the King

- Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, **wise men [*magi*] from the east** came **to Jerusalem**,
- 2 saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his **star** when it rose [*in the east*] and have come to worship him."



# Definition and Examples of “Epiphany”

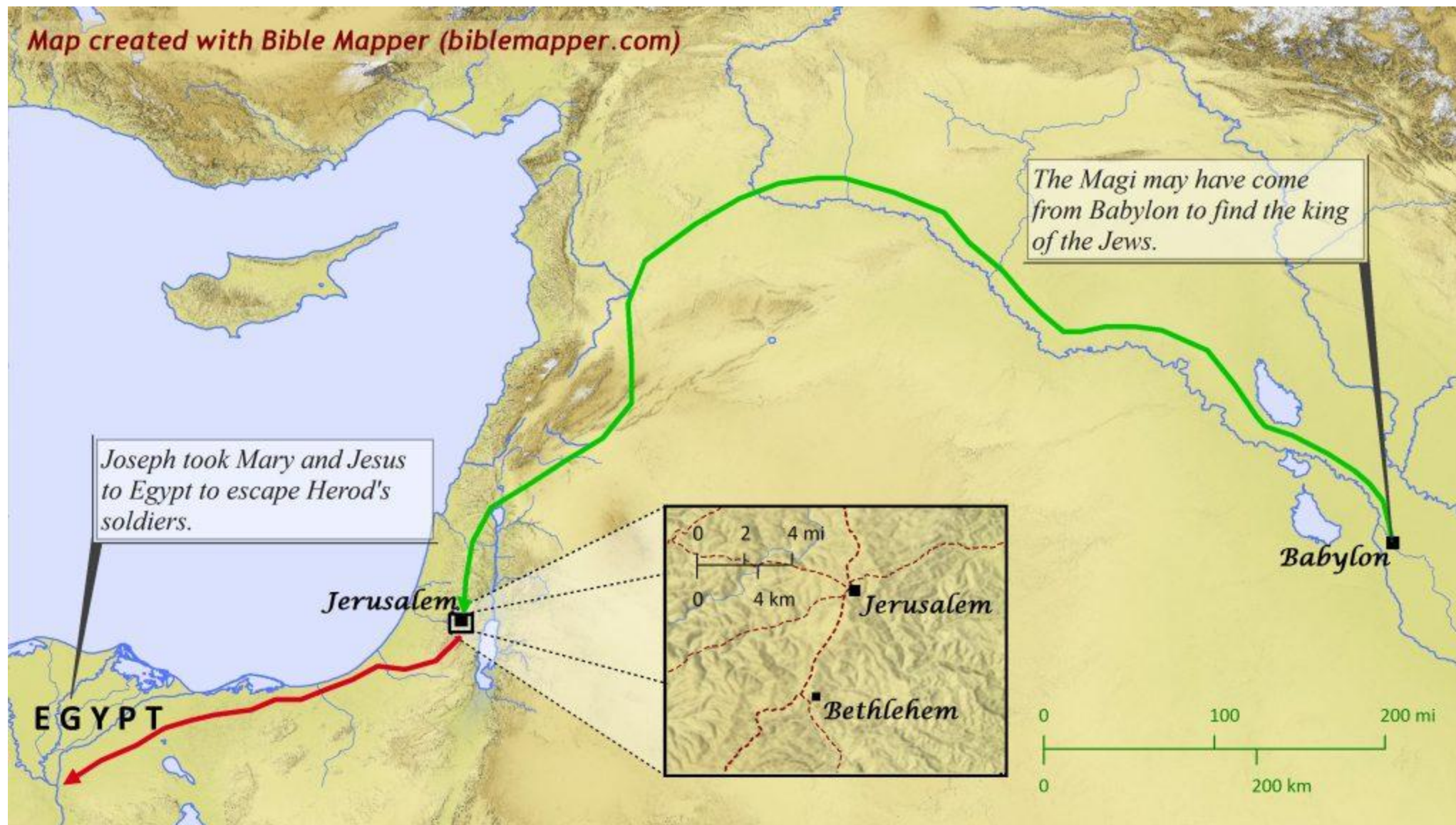
- “Epiphany”(Greek “Epiphaneia”): “revealing” or “shining out”
- A revealing to the Gentiles that Jesus is the Messiah (Matthew 2:1-12)
- Other “epiphanies” in the Bible:
  - God speaks in a burning bush to Moses about Egypt (Exodus 3)
  - God’s servant will be high and lifted up and exalted (Isaiah 52:13)
  - The heavens open at the baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:16-17)

# The Magi

- Wise men (astrologers) or Kings from the East: Persia, Babylon, Arabia
- Used the science of the time to determine location of the Messiah
- Their arrival was foretold by the prophet (Isaiah 60:1,3,5-6):
  - 1 “Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
  - 3 And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
  - 5 the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
  - 6 They shall bring gold and frankincense”



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# Matthew 2:3-6

## Fulfillment of Prophecy

- <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;
- 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.
- 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:
- 6 "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

# Micah's Prophecy about Bethlehem (700s B.C.)

- <sup>2</sup> But you, **O Bethlehem Ephrathah**,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
**from you shall come forth for me**  
**one who is to be ruler in Israel**,  
whose coming forth is from of old,  
from ancient days. . . .
- <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.
- <sup>5</sup> **And he shall be their peace.** (Micah 5:2,4-5a)

# Matthew 2:7-10

## Continuing the Journey

- <sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.
- <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."
- <sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.
- <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

# The Star Re-Appears





# Assurance for Those Who Seek the Lord

- <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for peace and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.
- <sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.
- <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:11-13)

# **Matthew 2:11**

## **Worshiping the Lord**

- 11 And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.



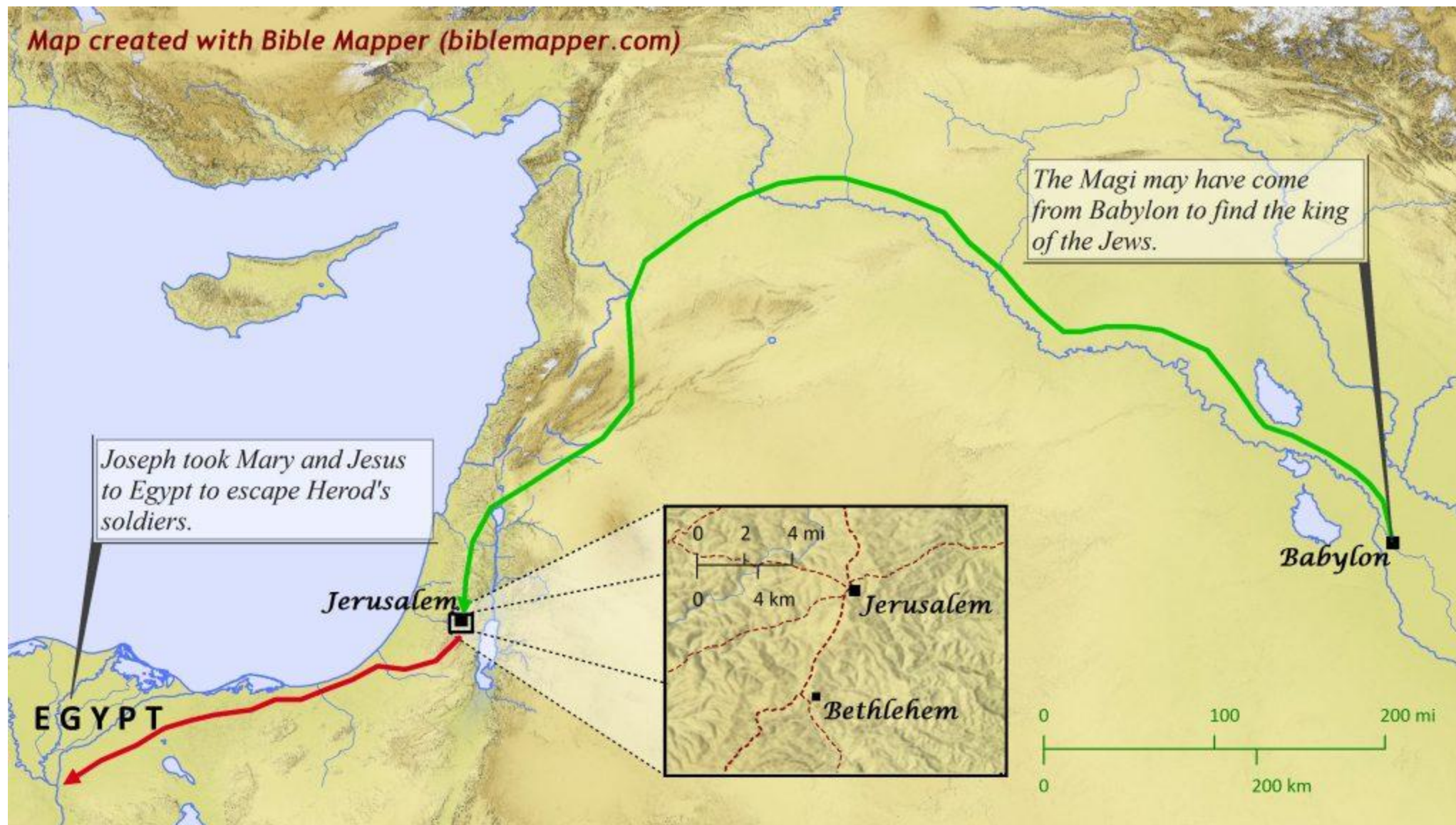
# **Matthew 2:12**

## **God is Sovereign**

- 12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.
- Many are the plans in the mind of a man,  
but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.  
--Proverbs 19:21



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# Takeaways

## A. The Universal Appeal of Jesus

--From Shepherds to Wise Men

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(Philippians 2:9-11)

# Takeaways

## **B. Jesus Heals the Hole in Our Soul**

--Mortals Long For the Immortal

"Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee."

--Augustine of Hippo, *Confessions*

# Following the Way to Jesus





## Let Us Pray:

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior”  
(Luke 1:46-47)

